

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS**

**Call to Order:** Chairman Jon C. Sesso, on February 3, 2009 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 102 Capitol.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Jon C. Sesso, Chairman (D)  
Rep. Duane Ankney (R)  
Rep. Dennis Getz (D)  
Rep. Bill E. Glaser (R)  
Rep. Ray Hawk (R)  
Rep. Teresa K. Henry (D)  
Rep. Cynthia Hiner (D)  
Rep. Roy Hollandsworth (R)  
Rep. Galen Hollenbaugh (D)  
Rep. Llew Jones (R)  
Rep. Dave Kasten (R)  
Rep. Bill McChesney (D)  
Rep. Walter McNutt (R)  
Rep. Robert Mehlhoff (D)  
Rep. Penny Morgan (R)  
Rep. Bill Nooney (R)  
Rep. Carolyn Pease-Lopez (D)  
Rep. Don Roberts (R)  
Rep. Cheryl Steenson (D)  
Rep. Dan Villa (D)

**Members Excused:** None.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Jon Moe, Legislative Branch  
Samuel Speerschneider, Committee Secretary

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 27, 1/28/2009; HB 60, 1/28/2009;  
HB 135, 1/28/2009; HB 384,  
1/28/2009

Executive Action: None

00:00:53 Chairman Sesso

**HEARING ON HB 27**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:39 Rep. Brady Wiseman (D), HD 65, opened the hearing on  
HB 27, Revise universal system benefit laws.

**EXHIBIT (aph25a01)**

00:10:23 Chairman Sesso

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:11:24 Rep. McNutt

00:12:41 Chairman Sesso

00:13:03 Jon Moe, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)

00:14:00 Chairman Sesso

00:14:16 Mr. Moe

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:14:41 Rep. Wiseman

00:15:08 Doug Hardy, Montana Electric Cooperatives

00:15:38 Rep. Wiseman

**HEARING ON HB 135**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:16:09 Rep. Tony Belcourt (D), HD 32, opened the hearing on  
HB 135, Revise laws implementing the Fort Belknap-  
Montana Water Rights Compact.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:18:24 Susan Cottingham, Staff Director, Reserved Water Rights  
Compact Commission

00:24:48 Andrew Huff, Attorney, Governor's Office

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:25:37 Rep. Kasten  
00:26:07 Rep. Belcourt  
00:26:30 Rep. Kasten  
00:26:51 Rep. Belcourt  
00:27:01 Ms. Cottingham  
00:27:43 Rep. Kasten  
00:28:00 Ms. Cottingham  
00:28:35 Rep. Getz  
00:28:56 Ms. Cottingham  
00:29:42 Rep. Getz  
00:29:45 Ms. Cottingham  
00:30:15 Rep. Roberts  
00:30:19 Ms. Cottingham  
00:30:44 Rep. McNutt  
00:30:58 Rep. Belcourt

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:31:16 Rep. Belcourt

**HEARING ON HB 60**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:32:00 Rep. Bob Ebinger (D), HD 62, opened the hearing on  
HB 60, Jail mental health crisis network standards  
pilot program.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:37:02 Collete Grey, Great Falls  
00:37:37 Kathy McGowen, Community Mental Health Center  
00:40:07 Anita Rossman, Disability Rights Montana  
00:43:19 Matt Kuntz, Executive Director, National Alliance on  
Mental Illness, Montana  
00:45:47 Scott Crichton, Executive Director, American Civil  
Liberties Union, Montana  
00:48:27 Sheryl Wood, Associate Director, Montana Association of  
Counties

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

00:50:47 Lou Thompson, Administrator, Addictive and Mental  
Disorders Division, Department of Public Health and  
Human Services

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:51:14 Rep. Hawk  
00:51:52 Rep. Ebinger  
00:52:25 Rep. Hawk  
00:52:31 Rep. Ebinger  
00:52:43 Rep. Nooney  
00:53:34 Rep. Ebinger  
00:54:32 Rep. Nooney  
00:54:42 Rep. Ebinger  
00:54:45 Rep. Mehlhoff  
00:55:31 Ms. Thompson  
00:55:50 Rep. Mehlhoff  
00:57:49 Ms. Thompson  
00:58:29 Chairman Sesso  
00:59:44 Ms. Thompson  
01:01:09 Chairman Sesso  
01:01:23 Rep. Henry  
01:01:58 Chairman Sesso

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:02:43 Rep. Ebinger

**HEARING ON HB 384**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:05:11 Rep. Dan Villa (D), HD 86, opened the hearing on  
HB 384, Revise volume cap bond procurement laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:07:11 Mick Robinson, Montana University System  
01:08:23 Jim Stipcich, CEO, Montana Higher Education Student  
Assistance Corporation

**EXHIBIT (aph25a02)**

01:13:23 David Ewer, Budget Director, Office of Budget and  
Program Planning

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:20:35 Rep. Roberts  
01:20:53 Mr. Stipcich  
01:21:43 Rep. Roberts  
01:21:47 Mr. Stipcich  
01:22:05 Rep. Roberts  
01:23:11 Mr. Stipcich  
01:23:30 Rep. Roberts  
01:23:36 Mr. Stipcich  
01:24:00 Rep. Roberts  
01:24:13 Mr. Stipcich  
01:24:22 Rep. Kasten  
01:24:56 Rep. Villa  
01:25:14 Chairman Sesso  
01:25:34 Rep. Villa  
01:26:04 Rep. Nooney  
01:26:16 Mr. Moe

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:26:44 Rep. Villa

**ADJOURNMENT**

01:27:12 Adjournment: 4:30 P.M.

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Samuel Speerschneider, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT ([aph25aad.pdf](#))**